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Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

- 1 1. (currently amended) A method, comprising:  
2 restricting access, by a locking element, to a restricted-access space defined within  
3 an enclosure;  
4 ~~detecting movements associated with a locking element based on a sequence of~~  
5 ~~signal interruptions caused by the movements, the locking element restricting access to a~~  
6 ~~restricted-access space defined within an enclosure~~  
7 counting a number of trigger events during one or more successive time intervals,  
8 each time interval having a predetermined duration, wherein the number of trigger events  
9 counted during a given time interval can be greater than one; and  
10 associating the number of trigger events counted in each time interval with one  
11 digit of a digit sequence representing a code being submitted to actuate the locking  
12 element and gain access to the restricted-access space; and  
13 determining whether the code represented by the digit sequence actuates the  
14 locking element based on the sequence of signal interruptions, actuating the locking  
15 element to gain access to the restricted-access space.
- 1 2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 detecting the trigger events during each time interval based on a sequence of  
3 signal interruptions caused by the trigger events;

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4 representing at least part of the sequence of signal interruptions as a sequence of  
5 digital logic levels;

6 comparing the sequence of digital logic levels with a previously-entered code to  
7 ascertain an equivalence there between; and

8 based on ascertaining the equivalence, actuating the locking element to gain  
9 access to the restricted-access space.

1 3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:  
2 based on ascertaining the equivalence, identifying a user authorized to access the  
3 restricted-access space.

1 4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 generating an audible signal indicative of at least part of the digit sequence of  
3 ~~signal interruptions~~.

1 5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 identifying an operating mode based at least partly on a portion of the digit  
3 ~~sequence of signal interruptions~~, the operating mode corresponding to at least one of a  
4 code change request and an access request.

1 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
2 generating an audible signal indicative of the identified operating mode.

1 7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~detected movements~~ the trigger  
2 events correspond to manipulations of a door handle.

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- 1 8. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the sequence of signal  
2 interruptions correspond to interruptions in an optical signal.
- 1 9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the locking element corresponds to a  
2 solenoid in a lock.
- 1 10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the enclosure corresponds to at least one  
2 of an automobile, a boat, an airplane, a building, a container, and a cabinet.
- 1 11. (currently amended) A method, comprising:  
2 counting a number of trigger events ~~detecting movements~~ associated with a user  
3 interface during one or more successive time intervals, each time interval having a  
4 predetermined duration, wherein the number of trigger events counted during a given  
5 time interval can be greater than one ~~based on a sequence of signal interruptions caused~~  
6 ~~by the movements~~, the user interface affecting at least one operation of a vehicle;  
7 associating the number of trigger events counted in each time interval with one  
8 digit of a digit sequence representing a code being submitted to actuate the locking  
9 element and gain access to the restricted-access space;  
10 comparing ~~indicia of~~ at least a portion of the digit sequence ~~of signal interruptions~~  
11 with a previously-stored code; and  
12 based on the comparison, performing the at least one operation of the vehicle.
- 1 12. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

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2 generating a human-perceptible signal indicative of the digit sequence of ~~signal~~  
3 ~~interruptions~~.

1 13. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the user interface corresponds to  
2 a door handle of the vehicle and the ~~detected movements~~ trigger events correspond to  
3 manipulations of the door handle.

1 14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the at least one operation of the vehicle  
2 corresponds to at least one of a manipulation of a locking element restricting access to at  
3 least part of the vehicle, a manipulation of a window of the vehicle, and an ignition of the  
4 vehicle.

1 15. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the sequence of digits ~~signal~~  
2 ~~interruptions~~ corresponds to interruptions in an optical signal and the compared indicia  
3 correspond to a sequence of digital logic levels.

1 16. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one operation of the vehicle  
2 corresponds to at least one of a manipulation of a locking element restricting access to at  
3 least a part of the vehicle, a manipulation of a window of the vehicle, and an ignition of  
4 the vehicle.

1 17. (currently amended) A system, comprising:  
2 a locking element restricting access to a restricted-access space defined within an  
3 enclosure;

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4            ~~a movement-trigger-detection element detecting a number of trigger events~~  
5            ~~movements associated with the locking element during one or more successive time~~  
6            ~~intervals, each time interval having a predetermined duration, wherein the number of~~  
7            ~~trigger events detected during a given time interval can be greater than one based on a~~  
8            ~~sequence of signal interruptions caused by the movements; and~~  
9            a control element receiving indicia associated with the ~~sequence of signal~~  
10           ~~interruptions from~~ trigger events detected by the movement trigger-detection element,  
11           associating the number of trigger events detected in each time interval with one digit of a  
12           digit sequence representing a code, and actuating the locking element to provide access to  
13           the restricted-access space in response to the code ~~thereto.~~

1    18.    (currently amended) The system of claim 17, further comprising:

2           a feedback element generating a human-perceptible signal indicative of at least  
3           part of the digit sequence ~~of signal interruptions from.~~

1    19.    (Original)    The system of claim 17, wherein the locking element corresponds to a  
2           solenoid in a lock.

1    20.    (Original)    The system of claim 17, wherein the enclosure corresponds to at least one  
2           of an automobile, a boat, an airplane, a building, a container, and a cabinet.

1    21.    (currently amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the ~~movement-trigger-detection~~  
2           element includes a signal emitter and a signal detector, the signal detector detecting the a  
3           sequence of signal interruptions in an optical signal transmitted by the signal emitter.

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- 1 22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the optical signal exhibits an infrared  
2 wavelength.
- 1 23. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the signal detector transmits the indicia  
2 associated with the sequence of signal interruptions to the control element.
- 1 24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the indicia associated with the sequence  
2 of signal interruptions corresponds to a sequence of digital logic levels.
- 1 25. (currently amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the control element compares the  
2 ~~indicia associated with the~~ digit sequence of signal interruptions with a predetermined  
3 code to determine whether to actuate the locking element.
- 1 26. (currently amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the control element identifies an  
2 operating mode based at least partly on a portion of the digit sequence of signal  
3 ~~interruptions~~, the operating mode corresponding to at least one of a code change request  
4 and an access request.